THE EXAMINER.

No. 83 SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 1809.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 84.

A CANDID ARGUMENT AGAINST REFORM.

As it is but the part of an honest man to view every question on both sides, and to give each of them it's due, I have taken the first opportunity of recording an argument which has very forcibly struck me against the utility of a Reform in Parliament. I shall take the more pleasure in doing this, as it is an argument which has hitherto escaped the bitterest enemies of that measure, who will do me justice, I trust, in thus combating my own opinions and furnishing them with a most formidable weapon. Both the Reformists and Anti-Reformists set up the glory and prosperity of this nation as the bases of their labours: they tell us, that they wish nothing more than to see Great Britain flourishing, in the face of it's enemies, with a revived character for all that is *truly* vigorous, independent, and *philosophical*; and it is in this last qualification of British character, that I do think the Anti-Reformists may have the best of the argument. The great object of philosophy, we are told, is the contempt of worldly goods: and what is there so likely to fix this contempt to the last degree in all thinking minds as the unlimited licence of corruption? The love of honours, for instance, is said to be a weakness unworthy of a great mind; but if the present system continue, what man of common sense or virtue would have the least desire or respect for them? Who would be ambitious of a title, when the qualifications for it are the same as for a kitchen;—of a Baronet's, for example, when the only requisite is to make biscuits, or a Lord's, when all that is necessary is to be *wanted up stairs*? Such a patent of nobility as Sir WILLIAM's may do him much good with lords and ladies, but for my part I prefer it with a piece of fresh butter. As to the distinction of Member of Parliament, people were formerly anxious to obtain it for itself, and much foolish dignity was annexed to the letters M. P.; but if there be no reform, this title will become a mere empty absurdity in the eyes of the whole nation, so that we shall all become philosophers in an instant, and look with contempt upon what our poor foolish ancestors laboured to make respectable. We see the beginning of this feeling already, for the greatest men *in* Parliament are the very persons who are least respected out of it; the word Prince, whether from alliteration or some other combination of ideas, inevitably reminds you of Prostitute; and in the phrase "legitimate Monarch," as it is used by the Courtiers, there is something eminently droll to all those who do not believe in the "right divine of Kings to govern wrong," who recollect the Glorious Revolution, and who understand the lives of Queen Dowagers.

2. It is the same with wealth. Philosophers tell us to despise riches, and riches never become so contemptible as when they are wasted on corruption. England was once in an odd kind of repute, not only for her possession of wealth, but for her use of it; but when she lends it to those who can neither return nor make any use of it; when she buys arms, and clothes, and even Kings with it for her bitterest enemy, and when she stands on the sea-shore playing with it in ducks and drakes called Expeditions, I beg to know what philosopher ever breathed who could exhibit better practical lessons on the futility of treasure. KITTY FISHER is said to have eaten bank-notes in sandwiches, and her illustrious predecessor CLEOPATRA dissolved pearls in vinegar; there was virtue in this, but then it was mixed with ostentation: now, though metaphorically speaking we may be said to swallow any expense quite as readily as CLEOPATRA, yet in reality we improve upon that heathen sage with true Christian wisdom, and throw our riches away as well for our enemy's advantage as our own pleasure; and upon this account, I think there are no philosophers whom we resemble so much as a certain sect called Nickers, who flourished in the last century, and being intoxicated now and then, as the greatest philosophers had been before them, used to delight in breaking the windows of their greedy tradesmen with pieces of money; the greater the spirit of philosophy the more valuable of course were the pieces they threw away, so that *the enemy* next morning had his windows mended with a part, and put the remainder in his pocket.

3. If corruption teaches us the negative virtues of philosophy, it will also instruct us in its positive ones, and particularly in that saintly gift, patience. The Whigs gave us a sort of dawn into this wisdom, when they said that if ever we should be unable to pay our taxes, that is, to spend *ninety millions a-year* upon BONAPARTE, we must go from the first to the second floor, then to the garret, then to the cellar, and so on into the streets, thereby reducing us to the condition of the patient Job, who was forced to content himself with a seat on a dunghill, after having his children cut off by the enemy, and all his goods seized by the Devil. The Anti-reformists carry on this lesson with great spirit, and their lectures on being patient are true pieces of experimental philosophy: every speech of my Lord CASTLEREAGH upon public measures and of Mr. PERCEVAL upon public justice, is sure to exercise the patience it recommends; every act of the Minister's rouses one's energies, as the phrase is, just in the same way; and when we hear with patience of our gold being scattered on Austrian Courtiers, nay, upon the Spanish *highways and ditches*; when we hear with patience

of Fort der Haak, without opposition, when a position was taken up for the night on the Sand Hills, with East Capelle in front. Lieut.-Gen. Fraser was detached immediately to the left against Fort der Haak and Ter Vere, the former of which, on his approach, was evacuated by the enemy; but the town of Vere, which was strong in its defences, and had a garrison of about 600 men, held out till yesterday morning, notwithstanding the heavy and well-directed fire of the bomb-vessels and gun-boats during the preceding day, and until the place was closely invested.

Early on the morning of the 31st, a deputation from Middleburgh, from whence the garrison had been withdrawn into Flushing, having arrived in camp, terms of capitulation were agreed upon, copies of which I have the honour herewith to enclose, as well as that of the garrison of Ter Vere; and the divisions of the army, under the orders of Lieut.-Gen. Lord Paget and Major-Gen. Graham, moved forward, and took up a position with the right to Malakirke, the centre at Grypenkirke, and left to St. Laurent.

On the morning of the 1st inst. the troops advanced to the investment of Flushing, which operation was warmly contested by the enemy. In this movement he was driven by Major-Gen. Graham's division on the right from the batteries of the Dykeshook, the Vygeter, and the Nole, while Brigadier-General Houston's brigade forced the enemy posted on the road from Middleburg to retire, with the loss of four guns, and many killed and wounded. Lieut.-Gen. Lord Paget's division drove in the posts of the enemy, and took up his position at West Zonberg.

Nothing could exceed the gallantry of the troops throughout the whole of this day, and my warmest praise is due to the several General Officers for their judicious disposition in the advance of their respective columns. To Lieut.-Gen. Sir Eyre Coote I feel much indebted for his exertions in this service, and the prompt and able manner in which he has executed my orders. The light troops under Brigadier-Gen. Baron Rottenburg have been admirably conducted; and with the Officers commanding the several corps engaged I have every reason to be satisfied. The 3d battalion of the Royals, and flank companies of the 5th regiment, maintained the right, under difficult circumstances, with great gallantry, and killed and wounded a great many of the enemy.

Ter Vere being in our possession, Lieut.-Gen. Fraser's division marched in the evening upon Ruttern, detaching a corps for the reduction of Ramakens, which, when effected, will complete the investment of Flushing.

I have to regret the temporary absence of Brigadier-Gen. Browne, who was wounded late in the day, but I trust not to be long deprived of his services.

I have the honour to inclose a return of the killed, wounded, and missing. Deeply as the fall of every British soldier is at all times to be lamented, the loss will not appear to have been great, when the serious impediments it was in the power of the enemy to oppose to our progress are considered, as well as the formidable state of the batteries of Flushing, to which the troops were necessarily exposed.

The pressure of circumstances has prevented the Commanding Officer of Artillery from furnishing a detailed account of the guns and ordnance stores taken in the several batteries and fortresses of Ter Vere, but which will be hereafter transmitted, with a return of the prisoners taken since our landing, supposed to amount to 1000. Commodore Owen's squadron, with Lieut. Gen. the Marquis of Huntley's division, remains at anchor in the Wieling Passage, and the divisions of Lieut. Gen. the Earl of Rosslyn and Lieut.-Gen. Grosvenor, are arrived at the anchorage in the Vere Gat.

I cannot conclude without expressing, in the strongest terms, my admiration of the distinguished ability with which the fleet was conducted through the Passage into the Vere Gat, nor can the advantages resulting from the success of this operation be too highly estimated, as by it we were not only enabled to effect a disembarkation, which in the then state of the wind was impracticable in any other quarter, but also that the enemy, probably relying on the difficulty of the navigation, was less prepared for resistance. I must also warmly acknowledge the great assistance the service has derived from the zealous exertions of the Officers of the Navy, and of the seamen employed in drawing a considerable proportion of the artillery through a heavy sand, and without whose aid the advance of the army must necessarily have been suspended, the strength of the tide rendering the landing of the horses for a time extremely difficult. I have the honour to be, &c. CHATHAM.

P. S. Since writing the above letter, I have received intelligence from Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Hope, that the reserve of the army had effected their landing on South Beveland, and that a detachment had occupied the town of Goes.

[Here follow the Articles of Capitulation of the town of Middleburgh, by which security is granted to public functionaries, private persons, citizens, and inhabitants, whatever their political opinions may have been, or now are, provided they conduct themselves as peaceable citizens, and conform to such regulations as will hereafter be established by the authority of the British Government.—And also the Capitulation of the fortress of Veer, the garrison of which is allowed all the honours of war; they are not to serve against his Britannic Majesty or his Allies, until they have been regularly exchanged.]

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, in the Island of Walcheren, from the time of landing on the evening of the 30th of July, to the 1st of August inclusive.

One officer, 2 serjeants, 2 drummers, 41 rank and file killed; 13 officers, 15 serjeants, 1 drummer, 184 rank and file wounded; 34 rank and file missing.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

KILLED—3 Bat. 1st Foot, Lieut. D. M'Lean.

WOUNDED—3d Bat. 1st Foot, Capt. John Wilson, Lieut. Jackson, and Volunteer J. P. Drury, slightly.

2d Bat. 35th Foot, Capt. Tisdell, slightly; Capt. Frederick, dangerously.

68th Foot, the names of the 3 Officers wounded not specified in the Return.

2d Bat. 82d Foot, Lieut. Reid, slightly; Lieutenant Pratt, dangerously.

85th Foot, the name of the Officer wounded not mentioned in the Return.

Staff.

26th Foot, Capt. Fotheringham, Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General, slightly.

40th Foot, Brigadier General Browne, slightly.

62d Foot, Capt. Browne, Aid-de-Camp to Brigadier General Houston, slightly.

Middleburg, August 3.

MY LORD—Since my letter of yesterday's date, I have received intelligence from Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Hope, of his having occupied Batz, and taken possession of the whole Island of South Beveland.

I have also the satisfaction to inform your Lordship, that upon the batteries being prepared to open, the fortress of Rammakins surrendered this evening, and I have the honour to inclose the Articles of Capitulation.—I have the honour to be, &c. CHATHAM.

To Lord Viscount Castlereagh, &c. &c. &c.

[Here follow the terms of Capitulation of the fortress of Rammakins. The garrison (127 men) surrender prisoners of war, with every thing that belongs to the fortress, and are to be disposed of as the British Government chooses, and as has been the custom of war.]

Admiralty-Office, August 7.

Lieut. J. Duncan, commanding his Majesty's hired cutter the Idas, arrived yesterday evening at this Office with dispatches from Sir R. J. Strachan, Bart. and K. B. Rear Admiral of the White, &c. addressed to the Hon. W. W. Pole, of which the following are copies:—

Venerable, off the Veer Gat, August 4.

SIR—You have been already acquainted that I hoisted my flag in the Amethyst, and that it was my intention to have preceded the expedition, in company with the Venerable, on board

which ship Lord Chatham had embarked; but finding the public service might suffer from the Commander in Chief being separated, I therefore shifted to the Venerable, and sailed from the Downs at day-light on the 28th ult.

I have now to acquaint you for their Lordship's information, of my arrival on the evening of that day in the Stone Deeps, with the Amethyst and several smaller vessels, where I was joined by the Fisgard, Capt. Bolton, who had with great judgment placed vessels on the various shoals off this coast.—After dark, Lieut. Groves, of this ship, with some skilful pilots in Deal boats, were dispatched to sound the Roompot channel, and to station vessels at its entrance.

Early next morning, the 29th, the division of Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Hope, conducted by Capt. Bathurst, in the Salsette, joined me, as did also Rear-Admiral Sir R. Keats, in the Superb. This zealous officer had the command of the blockading squadron off the entrance of the Scheldt, but observing the armament pass, he, with his accustomed promptitude, left that squadron under the orders of Lord Gardiner, and resumed the charge of Sir John Hope's division; I therefore directed the Rear Admiral to shift his flag to the Salsette, and to proceed to the Roompot.

The entrance to that channel is very narrow, and as I was aware of Sir H. Popham's local knowledge of the insular navigation before me, I entrusted to that officer the service of leading Sir R. Keats's division in, and which he did with great skill in the Sabrina, Capt. Kittoe; the whole were anchored in safety opposite Zeerickzee, situated between the islands of Schowen and North Beveland.

That afternoon Rear-Admiral Otway, with the left wing of the army under Sir Eyre Coote, joined me in the Stone Deeps, but it blew too fresh to have any communication.

On the morning of the 30th, Sir H. Popham returned with a letter from Sir R. Keats, acquainting me that the division under his charge were all safely anchored; and I was likewise informed that there was sufficient space in the Roompot to contain all the ships, to which anchorage Sir H. Popham undertook to conduct them; and as it blew fresh, with all the appearance of an approaching gale, the squadron was instantly got under sail, and led in by the Venerable, when they all came to in safety off the Veer Gat.

As soon as the ships were secured, measures were instantly taken to prepare to land the army on the island of Walcheren. I did not wait for the gun-boats coming up, but ordered those which happened to be near the Venerable, together with the mortar brigs, to push in shore to cover the landing, and to force the Derbaak battery.

At half past four the boats put off, under the direction of Lord A. Beauclerk, of the Royal Oak, and Capt. Cockburn, of the Bellisle, and the troops were landed in excellent order, without opposition, the firing from the mortar and gun-vessels having driven the enemy completely from the Derbaak battery.

Having thus accomplished this first object, I lost no time in directing the bombs and gun-boats to proceed up the Veer Gat, off Camvere; and having given Sir H. Popham, who at the request of Lord Chatham had remained on shore with his Lordship, permission to employ them as the service might require, he the next morning began to cannonade Camvere, which had been summoned but still held out. The fire of the gun-boats was exceedingly well directed, and did much damage to the town.

The officers and crews engaged in that service had a great claim to my admiration for their conduct. Three of our gun-boats were sunk. In the afternoon it blew fresh, and as the strength of the tide prevented the bombs from acting, I directed the flotilla to fall back, preserving a menacing position.

At night, Capt. Richardson, of the Cæsar, who was in the dyke on shore, threw some rockets at the nearest battery of Camvere, and soon after the Commanding Officer of the town sent out an offer to surrender. A copy of the terms acceded to by Lieut.-Gen. Fraser, and Capt. Richardson, the senior naval officer on the spot, accompanies this letter.

The army under Sir J. Hope landed at South Beveland on the 1st of this month, and by a letter from Sir R. Keats, of yesterday's date, I find the whole of the island is in our possession, the enemy's ships are all above Lillo, and those most advanced, as high up as Antwerp.

We are getting our flotilla through the Slough into the Western Scheld, to prevent succours being thrown into Flushing by the canal of Ghent.

When the Rammakins battery is taken, we hope to pass the lighter vessels to the Western Scheld, for the purpose of following up the objects of the expedition.

I cannot conclude this letter without acknowledging the assistance I have received from Rear-Admiral Otway; and how much I approve of the arrangements he made for landing the division under Sir Eyre Coote, which was carried into effect by Lord A. Beauclerk and Capt. Cockburn, with much skill and activity. Sir R. Keats, in the execution of the arduous duties he has had to perform, has shewn his accustomed zeal and judgment.

The Captains, Officers, and Crews of his Majesty's ships are indefatigable in the execution of their respective duties, and I have much pleasure in adding, that there is a most perfect co-operation of the army and navy.—I have, &c.

R. J. STRACHAN.

P. S. I send this by Lieut. Duncan, whose cutter, the Idas, was close in shore, and covered the landing.

Venerable, off the Veer Gat, August 5.

SIR,—It is with the greatest satisfaction that I am enabled to inclose, for their Lordships' information, a copy of the Capitulation of Fort Rammakins, which surrendered to his Majesty's forces under Lieut.-Gen. Fraser yesterday afternoon.

The possession of this post is of great importance to our further operations in the West Scheld, as it will enable me, without molestation, to advance the whole of the flotilla, together with the Camilla and Pallas, by the Slough, and which I trust will effectually prevent any succours from being thrown into Flushing either from Cadsand, or by the Ghent Channel.

I have also the honour of forwarding copies of Sir Richard Keats's accounts of his proceedings in South Beveland, by which their Lordships will perceive that the operations of the combined force under the Rear-Admiral and Sir J. Hope have been very successful, and that the important post of Batz has been evacuated by the enemy.

I came here to forward this dispatch to England, and shall leave the command of this division with Rear-Admiral Otway, and return to the flotilla, which I conclude is now investing Flushing.

It is my intention to hoist my flag in one of the small vessels in the Slough, that I may be near the head-quarters of Lord Chatham, and to conduct the various services in the West Scheld.

I am, &c. R. J. STRACHAN.

Hon. W. W. Pole.

Sabrina, off South Beveland, August 1.

SIR,—I have the satisfaction to inform you that Sir John Hope and 7000 of his division of the army were landed on South Beveland this afternoon, since which I have been informed by a message from him, that he was met on his approach towards Goes by the Magistrates, into which place he is at liberty to enter whenever he pleases. Three of the enemy's ships of the line and six brigs are at anchor off the east end of South Beveland, and the others I conclude have moved further up the Scheld.

Three of the four sloops I brought up with me struck in coming up. I have hoisted my flag in the Sabrina, and am not without hopes of getting the remaining parts of the division on shore, and most part of the army supplied to-morrow.—I have the honour to be, &c. R. G. KEATS.

Half-past Seven, P. M.—The substance of this letter was sent by telegraphic communication from the Sabrina at five o'clock. The six brigs are getting under sail, and moving up the Scheld apparently, but the ships of the line are still fast.

Sabrina, off Wemeldinge, August 3.

Soon after I landed, I was informed by letter from Sir J. Hope, that Batz had been evacuated in the night; and as he informed me the communication was open between Walcheren and this Island, and he had sent to Lord Chatham an account

of the evacuation, I concluded you would hear it from hence, and went on to Bathz with a view to make observations, and from which I am this moment returned. R. G. KEATS.

Rear-Admiral Sir R. J. Strachan.

TURSDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

W. and T. Ollivant, Manchester, cotton-manufacturers.

J. Bailey, Chancery-lane, stationer.

BANKRUPTS.

S. Beck, Bury-street, St. Mary Axe, jeweller. Attornies, Messrs. Collins and Waller, Spital-square.

S. Unwin, Disley, Chester, shopkeeper. Attorney, Mr. Higson, Manchester.

J. Risden, Newmarket, carpenter. Attorney, Mr. Cooper, Cambridge.

J. Shaw, Wapping-wall, provision-merchant. Attorney, Mr. Wild, Castle-street, Falcon-square.

C. Levick, High-street, Shadwell, straw-hat-manufacturer. Attorney, Mr. Tucker, Bartlett's-buildings.

J. Allsop, Winchester, silk-weaver. Attorney, Mr. Kernot, Thavies-Inn, London.

CERTIFICATES—AUGUST 29.

J. Mincelin and D. Amick, Cheapside, perfumers.—W. Fowler, Great Distaff lane, wine-merchant.—Wm. Wake, Spital-square, silk-manufacturer.—N. J. Winch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchant.—J. Dicas, Stockport, money-scrivener.—J. Smith, Evesham, Worcestershire, innholder.—T. Turner, Birmingham, button-maker.—P. Mattineau, St. James's-street, warehouseman.—A. J. Sarqui, Bury-street, merchant. R. Cowper, Cateaton-street, warehouseman.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing Street, August 11, 1809.

Dispatches, of which the following are extracts, have been received at the Office of Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant General Sir Arthur Wellesley, K. B.

MY LORD, *Placentia, 15th July*, 1809.

After I had written to your Lordship on the 1st inst., Joseph Bonaparte crossed the Tagus again, and joined Sebastiani with the troops he had brought from Madrid, and with a detachment from Marshal Victor's corps, making the corps of Sebastiani about 28,000 men, with an intention of attacking Vanegas' corps. Vanegas, however, retired into the mountains of the Sierra Morena, and Col. Larey with his advanced guard attacked a French advanced corps in the night, and destroyed many of them.

The French troops then returned again to the Tagus, which river Joseph had crossed with the reinforcement which he had taken to Sebastiani's corps; and this last corps, consisting of 10,000 men only, was on the left bank of the Tagus, about Madrilejos, in front of Vanegas, who was again advancing.

The last accounts from this quarter were of the 8th.

The French army under Victor, joined by the detachments brought by Joseph from Sebastiani's corps, and amounting in the whole to about 35,000 men, are concentrated in the neighbourhood of Talavera, and on the Alberche; Gen. Cuesta's army has been in the position which I informed your Lordship that it had taken up since I addressed you on the 1st inst.

The advanced guard of the British army arrived here on the 8th, and the troops which were with me on the Tagus arrived by the 10th; the 23d light dragoons and the 48th arrived yesterday; the 61st regiment will arrive to-morrow.

I went to General Cuesta's quarters at Almaraz on the 10th, and stayed there till the 12th, and I have arranged with that General a plan of operations against the French army, which we are to begin to carry into execution on the 18th, if the French should remain so long in their present position.

The Spanish army under General Cuesta consists of about thirty-eight thousand men, (exclusive of Vanegas's corps) of which seven thousand are cavalry. About fourteen thousand men are detached to the bridge of Arzobispo, and the remainder are in the camp under the Puerte de Mirabete.

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship, that the seven battalions of infantry from Ireland and the Islands, and the troop of horse artillery from Great Britain, arrived at Lisbon in the beginning of the month.

General Crauford's brigade is on its march to join the army, but will not arrive here till the 24th or 25th.—I have the honour to be, &c. ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

MY LORD, *Talavera de la Reyna, July* 24.

According to the arrangements which I had settled with Gen. Cuesta, the army broke up for Placentia on the 17th and 18th instant, and reached Oropesa on the 20th, where it formed a junction with the Spanish army under his command.

Sir R. Wilson had marched from the Venta de Bazagon, on the Tietar, with the Lusitanian Legion, a battalion of Portuguese chasseurs, and two Spanish battalions, on the 15th; he arrived at Arenas on the 19th, and on the Alberche, at Escalona, on the 23d.

Gen. Vanegas had also been directed to break up from Madrileyos on the 18th and 19th, and to march by Trenbleque and Ocana to Puenteduenas, on the Tagus, where that river is crossed by a ford, and thence to Arganda, where he was to arrive on the 22d and 23d.

On the 22d, the combined Armies moved from Oropesa, and the advanced guards attacked the enemy's outposts at Talavera. Their right was turned by the 1st Hussars and the 23d Light Dragoons, under General Anson, directed by Lieut.-General Payne, and by the division of infantry under the command of Major-Gen. Mackenzie, and they were driven in by the Spanish advanced guards under the command of Gen. Sarsa and the Duc d'Albuquerque.

We lost 11 horses by the fire of cannon from the enemy's position on the Alberche, and the Spaniards had some men wounded.

The columns were formed for the attack of this position yesterday, but the attack was postponed till this morning, by desire of General Cuesta, when the different corps destined for the attack were put in motion, but the enemy had retired at about one in the morning to Santa Olalla, and thence towards Torrijos, I conclude to form a junction with the corps under General Sebastiani.

I have not been able to follow the enemy as I could wish, on account of the great deficiency of means of transport in Spain. I enclose the copy of a letter, which I thought it proper to address upon this subject to Major-General O'Donoghue, the Adjutant-General of the Spanish army, as soon as I found that this country would furnish no means of this description.

General Cuesta has urged the Central Junta to adopt vigorous measures to relieve our wants; till I am supplied, I do not think it proper, and indeed I cannot, continue my operations. I have great hopes, however, that before long I shall be supplied from Andalusia and La Mancha with the means which I require, and I shall then resume the active operations which I have been compelled to relinquish. I have the honour to be, &c. &c. ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Downing-street, Aug. 11, 1809.

Dispatches, of which the following are Copies, have been received at the Office of Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General the Earl of Chatham, K. G.

Head Quarters, Middleburgh, August 7th, 1809.

MY LORD,—Nothing very material has occurred since my last dispatch of the 3d inst. We have been unremittingly employed in bringing up the artillery of siege, ammunition and stores to the vicinity of Flushing, and the troops have been occupied in the construction of the batteries, and in carrying on the several works before the place, but which have been necessarily interrupted by the very heavy rains which have fallen here.

The enemy is active and enterprising, and the garrison has certainly received considerable reinforcements from the oppo-

site coast; nor has it been in the power of the flotilla hitherto to prevent it. Under these circumstances, it has been found necessary to land Lieutenant-General Grosvenor's division, and the two light battalions of the King's German Legion have been also for the present brought on shore.

Immediately on the fall of Ramakens, I determined, as soon as the necessary arrangements were made, to pass the infantry of Lieutenant-General the Earl of Rosslyn's corps, together with Lieutenant-General the Marquis of Huntley's division, and the light brigades of artillery, into South Beveland, to form a junction with the reserve under Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope, and that the cavalry and ordnance ships, together with the transports for Lieutenant-General Grosvenor's division, the moment their services could be spared from before Flushing, should be brought through the Slow Passage, and proceed up the West Scheldt, but of course this latter operation cannot take place till a sufficient naval force shall have been enabled to enter the river, and to proceed in advance, but the very severe blowing weather we have constantly experienced, added to the great difficulty of the navigation, has hitherto baffled all their efforts.

By Letters from Lieut.-General Sir John Hope, I find that the enemy had, on the 5th instant, come down with about twenty-eight gun-vessels before Batz, on which place they kept up a smart cannonade for some hours, but were forced to retire by the guns from the fort, and every thing has since remained quiet in that quarter.

I have the honour to inclose a statement of the casualties that have occurred in the several corps before Flushing, since the last returns of killed and wounded. I have the honour to be, &c. CHATHAM.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, since last return (Aug. 2), to Aug. 6, 1809, inclusive.

1 Assistant-Surgeon, 25 rank and file, killed; 1 Major, 6 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 4 Serjeants, 114 rank and file, wounded; 4 rank and file missing.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

26th Foot—Lieutenant Maxwell, dangerously wounded.

68th Foot—Major Thompson, dangerously wounded; Lieutenant H. B. Muids and Ensign A. Thompson, slightly wounded.

71st Foot—Assistant-Surgeon H. Quin, killed; Lieutenant D. Fletcher, slightly wounded.

81st Foot—Lieutenant K. Montgomery, slightly wounded.

95th Foot—Lieut. Hambly, slightly wounded.

Embodied Detachment—Ensign Addison, of the 6th Regiment, slightly wounded.

Staff Corps—Lieutenant A. Taylor, slightly wounded.

Officers returned wounded in last Return, but whose names were not then known.

68th Foot—Capt. Crespigny, Lieuts. M'Donald and J. Menzies, slightly wounded.

85th Foot—Lieut. Buch, slightly wounded.

35th Foot—Capt. Frederick, wounded as per last Return, but since dead.

MY LORD, *Middleburg, 8th August* 1809.

Since closing my dispatch of yesterday's date, the enemy, towards five o'clock in the evening, in considerable force, made a vigorous sortie upon the right of our line occupied by Major-General Graham's division.

The attack was principally directed upon our advanced piquets, which were supported by the 3d battalion of the royals, the 5th and 35th regiments under Colonel Hay. These corps, together with detachments of the royal artillery, the 95th and light battalions of the King's German legion, received the enemy with their accustomed intrepidity; and after a sharp contest of some duration, forced him to retire with very considerable loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners.

In this affair the enemy has had another opportunity of witnessing the superior gallantry of British troops; in no instance has he succeeded in making the least impression throughout our line, and on this occasion, so far from profiting by his attempt, he has been obliged to relinquish some very advantageous ground where our advanced posts are now established.

I cannot too strongly express my sense of the unremitting vigilance and ability manifested by Major-General Graham, in securing and maintaining his post against the repeated attempts of the enemy to dislodge him; and I have great satisfaction in acquainting your Lordship, that the Major-General mentions, in terms of the warmest approbation, the distinguished conduct and gallantry of the officers and troops engaged on this occasion.

I am now enabled to transmit, for your Lordship's information, an abstract return of the ordnance, ammunition, and stores that have fallen into our hands since our arrival in this island.—I have the honour to be, &c. CHATHAM.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing in the affair of the 7th August.

One serjeant, 13 rank and file, killed; 1 captain, 4 lieutenants, 3 ensigns, 7 Serjeants, 126 rank and file, wounded; 1 brevet major, 4 rank and file, missing.

Names of Officers wounded and missing.

Royal Artillery—Lieut. Grant, slightly wounded.

5th Foot—Brevet Major Bird, missing, supposed to be taken prisoner; Capt. Hamilton, dangerously wounded; Lieut. C. Bird, Ensigns Galbraith and Walton, slightly wounded.

95th Foot—Lieut Clark, dangerously wounded.

1st Light Battalion of the King's German Legion—Lieut. Frederick Du Fay and Ensign Frederick Hedeman, dangerously wounded.

[Here follow two letters from Capt. Brenton of his Majesty's ship Spartan, of the 27th April, and 5th May, relating the proceedings of the Spartan, Amphion, and Mercury, at Pesaro, on the 23d April, and at Ceseratico, on the 2d May, when, on both occasions, all the enemy's vessels in those ports (13 in number) were captured, and the Forts destroyed. No loss was sustained on our part.]

BANKRUPTS.

T. Howard, Dean-street, Southwark, conductor. Attorney, Mr. Ellis, James-street, Buckingham-gate.

J. Dumelow, Hinckley, Leicestershire, grocer. Attorney, Mr. Chapman, St. Mildred's-court, Poultry.

E. Powell, Birmingham, japanner. Attorney, Mr. Palmer, Birmingham.

G. Packer, Northleach, Gloucestershire, corn-dealer. Attornies, Messrs. Meredith and Robbins, Lincoln's Inn.

S. Jameson, Reading, dealer and chapman. Attorney, Mr. Biggs, Reading.

W. M. Lolley, Liverpool, rectifier. Attorney, Mr. Avison, Liverpool.

G. Edlin, Aldgate, jeweller. Attorney, Mr. M'Michael, Finch-lane.

E. Maddock and W. Delamore, Liverpool, corn-dealers. Attornies, Messrs. Griffith and Hinde, Liverpool.

R. Horsley, Spitalfields, silk-weaver. Attornies, Messrs. Price and Williams, Lincoln's-Inn Old-square.

E. Browne, Bradford, Wiltshire, clothier. Attorney, Mr. Clifford, Bristol.

B. Simmons, Newcastle-street, Strand, shoemaker. Attornies, Messrs. Jennings and Collier, Carey-street.

CERTIFICATES—SEPT. 2.

J. Kempson, Old Bethlhem, paper-hanger.—J. Beavers, Sheffield, builder.—T. Hodgson, Blackman-street, Southwark, upholder.—C. White, Oxford-street, dealer.—E. Palmer, Old Jewry, paper-hanger.—R. Cowper, Cateaton-street, warehouseman.—T. Leeming, Preston, Lancashire, J. Myres, Birstall, Yorkshire, and W. Chapman, Preston, worsted-manufacturers.—H. Wyatt, R. S. Jones, Charles Shepherd, and N. P. Top, Duke-street, Aldgate, painters.—J. Hughes, Liverpool, draper.—J. Tatton and J. Waring, Leeds, merchants.

The Duke of BRUNSWICK OELS, with about 2000 of his troops, have made good their retreat to the banks of the Weser, from whence they were taken off by the squadron under the command of Lord GEORGE STEWART, and they will probably be landed at Walcheren.

SATURDAY—HOLYDAY—PRINCE OF WALES'S BIRTH-DAY.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, AUGUST 13.

It appears by the Gazette of last night, that Government have received no intelligence from Walcheren of a later date than the 8th instant. The whole island has surrendered except its only important garrison Flushing, which in spite of our vast armament has received considerable reinforcements, and threatens a desperate resistance. Sir EYRE COOTE has 25,000 men before the place, and Admiral GARDNER a squadron of six ships. The only affair of importance that has hitherto arisen, was a sortie made on Monday by 2000 of the garrison, who attacked the advanced guard of General GRAHAM'S brigade, and were routed with the loss of 500 men in killed, wounded, and prisoners; the British kept every inch of ground with the loss of 48 killed and 187 wounded. This affair and the surrender of the petty fortresses about the island, as they appeared in the Gazettes, formed the subject for a detail twice as long as one of BONAPARTE'S triumphant bulletins; a prolixity ridiculous enough, when it is remembered how gay the Ministerialists were upon BONAPARTE'S rise and fall of the Danube, a subject of at least as great importance to him as the capture of a Dutch outhouse to us. If BONAPARTE talks a great deal, he also atchieves a great deal: the English Ministry talk fifty times as much and atchieve nothing; if we are so unwilling or so unable to act like him, pray do not let us boast like him. There is a complimentary cant in our most trivial military dispatches, when speaking of the conduct of the persons employed, that may appear very just to our sober self-love, but must look very much like sober nonsense in the eyes of the vivacious French, who are accustomed to conquer; Lord CHATHAM for instance, says in his last letter, that he "*cannot too strongly* express" his sense of General GRAHAM'S services, and that the General himself mentions in terms of the "*warmest approbation the distinguished conduct and gallantry*" of the officers and troops;—there can be no doubt of General GRAHAM'S ability and of the courage of his troops, but here is a wholesale extravagance of praise that could not well be exceeded on occasions twenty times as brilliant: it is not only ostentatious and unwarrantable, but it is worse than useless, because it confounds small services, however *perfect in their kind*, with those of the most arduous and valuable nature. And after all, this is *not* the way that BONAPARTE talks upon some of the most eventful triumphs. He says, indeed, that such and such a regiment has "covered itself with glory;" but when speaking generally, he speaks only of his *satisfaction*, or pays some little French compliment, the whole strength of which is in its peculiarity of turn. When he selects an individual, therefore, for an eulogy, we are well assured that no petty interest, and no cant, are concerned in the matter, and we are prepared, as far as military matters go, to reverence the party accordingly.

Something has been *suspected*, for some days past, from the strange tone about foresight and reverses, which has occupied the Ministerial Editors; though indeed the secret was well known to all those who knew the Spanish Junta, and "the universal Spanish nation." The unanimity of the universal Spanish nation! Mr. CANNING might as well have talked of the universal love of Spanish olives, or the universal attachment to Lord CASTLEREAGH.

There are *extracts* from two letters of Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY in last night's Gazette, the one containing an account of his plans with CUESTA, and the other of an united attack at Talavera de la Reyna upon VICTOR, whose outposts are said to have been driven in; but in spite of this advantage, when the columns were formed to follow it up next morning, on Sunday the 23d, the attack was "postponed" says Sir ARTHUR, "by desire of General CUESTA," and the French effected their escape. Upon this mysterious conduct in the Spanish General, who has hitherto borne a character for enterprize, there is but one conjecture, which appears on the face of it to be very ill grounded: they suppose superstition caused the delay, and that CUESTA would not fight on a Sunday; but if this is true, his habits of devotion must have been of a very peculiar nature, and very unlike the superstition of the Spaniards. Sunday is not observed among the Catholics half as scrupulously as among the Protestants; and the Spaniards, who owe what enthusiasm they have to images and presiding saints, would rather take advantage of a church festival to raise the courage and national feelings of their army;—PHILIP the Second, the most bigoted of all their monarchs, gained the famous battle of St. Quintin on St. LAWRENCE'S Day, and built the Escurial in consequence, out of gratitude to the Saint; there are numberless instances of the same kind.—CUESTA'S suspected conduct on a former occasion is not to be forgotten, but in truth, that officer may be entirely blameless in his whole conduct, and the strange delay might have been owing to the same fears that induced BLAKE'S troops, the other day, to desert him in a panic. Our armies are destined to bring back with them a dear-bought knowledge of these allies. After all that has been hinted by the Ministerialists against that firm and observant General, Sir JOHN MOORE, it is a melancholy sort of retaliation on his calumniators to hear Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY himself complaining of the obstructions his activity found in Spain, and telling us that the country "would furnish *no means*" of transport. "General CUESTA," continues Sir ARTHUR, "has urged the Central Junta to *adopt* vigorous measures to relieve our wants; till I am supplied, I do not think it proper, and indeed I *cannot*, continue my operations." Every word of this ought to be engraven on the tomb of Sir JOHN MOORE; I was going to say, on the skulls of his

detractors. The fact is, that Sir ARTHUR, if he is not already preparing, must very soon prepare for his retreat. The transactions in Spain have for some time been a farce too gross even for comment.

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THE GRAND EXPEDITION.

"*Middleburgh, Aug.* 8.

"Flushing has not yet surrendered, nor has the bombardment begun. The enemy has received reinforcements from the Flemish coast, and make frequent sorties. The opinion prevails, that in consequence of the peace between Austria and France, the English will drop their plan of further operations against Holland, or higher up the Scheldt."

General MONNET, a Frenchman, commands at Flushing, with a garrison of 5 or 6000 men, who, it is said, is determined to hold out till the last extremity. The British force before Flushing amounts to 17,000 men, some say 25,000, under the immediate command of Sir EYRE COOTE. Admiral GARDNER commands a squadron of six ships before that port. The enemy are uncommonly active and vigilant: they keep up a constan fire on the British lines. The brigade of General GRAHAM has as yet been principally engaged; immediately on landing this brigade had a very smart affair with the French light infantry, who were posted along the sand-hills: the British however drove their opponents under the walls, though 30 English seamen, owing to their inconsiderate impetuosity, were made prisoners. On Monday, the garrison made a sortie with 2,000 men, but were repulsed with great loss by the advanced guard of this brigade, only 500 strong, though the enemy were most gallantly led on by their officers, and had a double portion of spirits served out to them. This attack lasted two hours. The British permitted the enemy to advance within point blank range, when they opened a most destructive fire of musquetry and cannon, which produced such confusion, that a charge with the bayonet completed the victory. The French officers endeavoured in vain to rally their men; one of them snatched a standard, and rushing forward in the midst of a heavy fire, planted it in front of the British line, and called upon his flying soldiers to rally round it: but their panic was not to be removed by such an heroic example; they fled in all directions, with the loss of 500 men in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The British had 48 killed, and 187 wounded in this affair, during which, two Englishmen, who had been taken prisoners in Spain, and compelled to serve in the French army, on coming out to the charge, went over to their countrymen, joined in their huzza, and assisted in the battle.—Should the British advance up the Scheldt, which is now doubted, they will meet with a still more formidable resistance. Bergen-op-Zoom has a garrison of 7000 men; at Antwerp, BERNADOTTE is stated to have assembled a force 30,000 strong; Fort Lillo, under whose walls the French have moored their ships of war, is a very strong fortress; and there are the following forts on the banks of the Scheldt, all of which must be attacked and silenced in the passage up to Antwerp:—At the entrance on the left bank, is Fort St. Ann, and a little higher up Fort Lies; higher still on the right, Fort St. Amboise, Fort Blaugaren, and Fort Lillo. Above these, Fort St. James, Fort Frederick Henry. Still higher up, where the river begins to narrow, Fort Perle and Fort St. Mary on the left bank, and Fort Philip immediately opposite. Before Antwerp is reached, there are yet two forts on opposite sides of the river, Piermentel and Isabella. Then comes Antwerp with its strong defences.

The conduct of the King of PRUSSIA is said to have been mentioned by BONAPARTE in terms of approval. So anxious has this fallen Monarch been to prove his neutrality, that he has sequestered the estate of the unfortunate Duke of BRUNSWICK OELS, who had taken up arms against the French.

Yesterday the Prince of WALES completed the 47th year of his age.

Five persons at Cassel, among whom is a man 76 years of age, have been condemned to death for having expressed *wishes* favourable to the Austrian army.

By the Duke of Kent packet, which is arrived with Mails from Cadiz, an account has been received of the brilliant defence of Gerona, in Catalonia. A breach, through which 16 men could march a-breast, having been effected by the French, they attempted to storm the place, but were repulsed with great slaughter. The women are stated to have co-operated, as at Saragossa, in the defence.

A letter from Plymouth, dated August 6, says—"You may be apprized of the loss of men the Dreadnought sustained, in the attack made by her boats; two of them, each commanded by a Lieutenant, attacked a corvette at anchor in Basque Roads, when, on the first getting along-side, a boarding netting, which had been previously prepared with weights affixed to it, was drawn out to the yard-arms, and let fall upon them, thus entangling the whole crew, 13 in number, with a Lieutenant, who were all refused quarter, and cut to pieces. The other boat, in assisting her, had all the crew and the Lieutenant wounded, the latter dangerously. These were enabled to return to the Dreadnought. Report says, that this apparently rash enterprize was undertaken in consequence of a dispute between the two Lieutenants, when on board their own ship, and having no opportunity of settling it, one challenged the other to attack the corvette, whilst rowing guard, otherwise he should deem him a coward. Certain it is, the attack was made without orders from the Captain, and the junior Lieutenant was the first that made it—so far circumstances corroborate this report."

The Marquis DE ROMANA has caused a very splendid Monument to be erected to the Memory of Sir JOHN MOORE, in a conspicuous situation, to which the remains of the lamented hero have been removed, from the obscure place where they were deposited in the fortress of Corunna.

THE METHODISTS.

MR. EDITOR,—Not to take *some* notice of your correspondent J. R. would appear too much like silent contempt, which, towards a brother writer, would not be decorous; but I rather think, that to enter into so wide a field as theological disputations would require, would take up more room in the columns of the *Examiner* than Mr. Hunt could conveniently afford us—and, in the next place, *I have other fish to fry.*

J. R. says, "I dare this person to a contest, in which I will undertake to shew the futility of his arguments."

I have looked over the letter in the *Examiner* of July 30, and do not see any thing like *argument* from beginning to end—it consists mostly, or indeed entirely, of *assertions*, or as J. R. has it, the writer's own *ipse dixit*, whether true or false, "*for further particulars enquire in Clerkenwell.*"

"His subject is religion." Not a word about religion in any part of the letter. I only spoke concerning some of the WORLDLY tenets of the Evangelical Gentlemen, without meddling with their SPIRITUAL concerns.

But, Mr. Editor, were you to afford room to my antagonist and me, for our "polemical disquisitions," I fear there would be a disadvantage attending the insertion

which you are not aware of, for to enable people to judge *fairly* between us, it would be necessary to give a re-insertion to my letters, which must be printed side by side with his answers, to prevent *misrepresentation*. Now what a pretty handle has this gentleman made of one expression:—"*He diverts himself* (says J. R.) *with calling the Methodists Scarecrows with* BLACK COATS!—" As this candid and courteous assailant has no objection to a scrap from Shakespeare here and there, to make my production look pretty, I will give him one:—

"The Devil can cite scripture for his purpose."

Now my good friend J. R. though more of a saint than a devil, can misquote *me* to answer a purpose; for would not any one, reading the passage in the way *he* has manufactured it, suppose that I had lumped the whole community of serious hearers of the Gospel, gentle and simple, female as well as male, into one mass of *Scarecrows!*—"He calls the Methodists, *Scarecrows* with *black* coats!" Good Mr. J. R. have a little regard to truth and candour in your occupation. Read the passage, and you will find I am not so unpolite as you would make me appear. I hope, and believe, that there are among the Methodists many very good men, aye, and as fine looking men, in coloured coats as well as black coats, as any lords, dukes, colonels, or ensigns in the kingdom—and I *know* there are a great number of *very pretty women* among them; now it would have been very ungallant indeed, to call such a number of beautiful females, at a time too when the prevailing dress of the ladies is white muslin, "*scarecrows with* BLACK COATS!!!"

"Forbid it, Honour, and forbid it, Love!"

The passage runs thus—"When we see, at every quarter sessions, such a set of scarecrows with black coats, eluding enrollment in the militia by obtaining licences to teach and preach, &c." This any one may see does not allude to the Methodists universally, but to those mechanics and others, many of them starting up from among the lowest classes of the community, who forsaking their callings, think, or pretend to think, they have had a spiritual call to preach the Gospel, when they might do much more good by working at their trades.

If the Editor would oblige me by looking over his file, and indulge me with a little room at the foot of the column, for the insertion, by way of note, of the callings and trades of the List * of inspired youths who at the quarter sessions for the county of Middlesex in last, applied for licences, I presume J. R. would not hazard such an assertion as that he himself believes every one of these Gentlemen to be fit and worthy persons for the Ministry, or such as he would trust the education of his own children to.

J. R. challenges—(three challenges in the space of half a column!) his adversary to dispute the point!" What point?—and by way of a knock-down blow (this is rather unfair after challenging a man to fair-fighting) gives us a story of an idle young dog that became a very good servant in consequence of joining the Society of Methodists. I dare say there have been, and are, many thousands in the same predicament; but this only goes to show that it is better to be a Methodist than to have no religion at all;—in this point then I most heartily coincide with Mr. J. R. nay I will go farther, and say I would sooner trust an individual that worshipped a snake, an onion, or a stone, than one who had, or pretended to have, no religion at all. So, as I have neither time nor inclination to enter the lists with J. R. as a disputant on religious subjects; and as my antagonist gives me gracious permission to quote SHAKESPEARE, I shall, leaving him to take up at his leisure the gauntlet which he has in brave defiance thrown down, take my farewell of him in the words of Macbeth,

"I'll not fight with thee!"

I am, Mr. Editor, your humble servant,

GILES SCROGGINS,

Aug. 7. 1809. An Inhabitant of Clerkenwell.

* The List alluded to, which appeared in the EXAMINER at the beginning of this year, cannot readily be found. Among the persons applying for licences to preach were a footman, a cobler, and a sheep's-head seller. Some of them could only put their *mark* by way of signature, and others could with difficulty read.—EXAMINER.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 50.

LYCEUM.

OF all professions connected with the polite arts, that of a player enjoys the most immediate admiration and sympathy of the town. The finest poet breathing may have hindrances and sicknesses out of number, and yet nobody shall think of him except his coterie and his bookseller; but give an actor the tooth-ache, and you give half the ladies in town the heart-ache; if he makes the most of a bad voice, he is applauded for charity's sake; if he has been drinking all night and has no voice at all, then he is applauded for pity's sake; to be lame in his leg is another word for going through a character to advantage; and when he recovers from a cholic and darts upon the enraptured spectators from the side-scenes, you would think he had been taking BONAPARTE instead of a cold. In short, the player not only enjoys a more decided applause in one evening than some of the greatest men have obtained in their whole lives, but he even creates *æras* in private history and becomes a kind of Olympiad to the young of both sexes: an enthusiastic Templar, for instance, will date his degree not from the time he finished such and such a study, but from the first appearance of COOKE or YOUNG; a lounger will recollect the death of his aunt or his father by the memorable tricks of GRIMALDI, or the more memorable of CATALANI; and as for the young ladies, who have the least relish of love and literature, no pocket-book, even though "embellished with an exquisite engraving from the interesting romance" of Shrieking Sensibility, or the Convulsive Couch, can serve their memories half so well as the day on which BRAHAM sung *that sweet song* about leaving *the maid to die*—or on which ELLISTON *did* the character of the *Duke Aranza* at Drury-lane, or perhaps on which he undid his own at the Circus.

These sympathies, while they are so lively on the part of the town, are not lost upon the feelings of the actors, who if they are rendered vain by enjoying such continual applause in person, must be as grateful in return as any individual can well be to a body of people. I do not allude to their tone of gratitude in play-bills and addresses, much of which must necessarily be affected; but when an actor takes his walk through the streets, and thinks how many of the successive crowds have been contributors to his fortune, and applauders of his industry, his feelings must be of a very unsociable nature if they do not

warm with peculiar complacency towards the faces he has so often dewed with tears or illumined with chearfulness. It is a sociality, I trust, of this kind, and the unwillingness to give up his acquaintance with the town, that induce Mr. Quick to come forward now and then in one of his old characters, as he did some few years ago, and has again done this last week. If so, he manages his absences with a very nice coquetry, stays away long enough to raise regret, and returns just in time to meet with the most cordial recollections. The character, which he seems to have kept by him for these public presentations, as the King of Prussia did his *clean* waistcoat, is the Jew in the *Duenna*, a part which he sustained on its first appearance, and which he preserves, probably because it best suits his peculiar humour, and his disinclination to exert himself. There is certainly a relaxed air in Mr. Quick's style of acting, which seems the effect both of indolence and of enfeebled powers: his voice evidently fails him in speaking as well as singing, and his Jew does not display enough of that important briskness of action which is the characteristic of a vain little man. These defects may be entirely owing to decrease of power. To judge however by his expression both of countenance and delivery, his conception of the character is full of correct humour. His courting scene with the *Duenna* was by far the best:—his voice, which is of a light nasal flippancy, and his features, which are gently dragged upwards into a most contented quaintness, were excellently suited to his affected cunning and his real cullibility; and, what gives him a very prominent superiority in this face-making age, he never forgot the limits of his character's humour to make way for more of his own; where the part was to affect any thing he affected it; but he had nothing of that most common of all common stage faults, a mixture of the *unconscious* drollery of the character with a *conscious comic talent* recommending itself to the audience. His after interview with *Don Jerome* was not so effective: the struts which he took towards his interlocutor, after saying a good thing, were characteristic, but rather embarrassed; and after making the old gentleman so angry by depreciating his daughter's charms, his change of tone was on the other hand rather too tame and unembarrassed. But upon the whole, Mr. Quick gives one the idea of an actor who has escaped the contagious caricature of the modern drama, and who has probably been in his time a powerful as well as natural comedian. It seems, however, that he has been considered a broad performer. "Parsons and Quick," says Davies, in his strange way of writing, "are actors born to relax the muscles, and set *mankind* a tittering. They are equally happy in the *Grave-digger*, but with more heightening than the two former (Jonson and Yates), Edwin is chaster in his outline than both, *for* he does not colour so warmly." * A charming reason why a man is chaste in his outline, because he does not colour warmly! If Davies does not colour a little himself in this account, either Mr. Quick's decrease of powers has increased his wish to be chaste, or the present comedians have indeed outstripped their predecessors in leaving nature and chaste humour behind them. Let Mr. Dowton consider this. He is an actor as well calculated for true comedy as true genius can make him, but the applause of the galleries is a harlot ever at variance with sound principle and reputation. He may make a fortune by making faces; but the most respectable actors, who are at least as wealthy as the rest, are not of that class; and if a performer, who can do so much for a good author, shall get into a habit of thus setting up his face against him, an honest critic has nothing to do but to set his face against *him*.

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* Dramatic Miscellanies, Vol. III. P. 141.

THE OPERA.

Mr. Editor,

The end of the season is arrived without the production of one excellent opera, owing to the impolitic engagement of Composers before their talents have been ascertained, who, as they must be paid, are employed whether good or bad, to the exclusion of more celebrated masters. Pucitta and Guglielmi are unfortunately as remarkable for rapidity of composition, as for deficiency in taste and science, and compose operas in as little time as men of more talent would take to complete one song: some of Pucitta's music, it is true, is light and pleasing, and some of Guglielmi's very tolerable imitations of better works; but put it in competition with that of Mozart, Winter, or Cimarosa, and it sinks into utter insignificance—the contrast is as great as between a jew's harp and an organ. Since Grassini and Billington quitted this theatre, the amusements have been on the decline; their excellent taste in selecting operas, and capability of performing them, afforded an endless treat: now the singing is become only a secondary consideration, and a host of new performers have been imported, who, with the exception of Tramezani, possess a multiplicity of defects and a very scanty supply of merit. Collini is a lively actress, and has a good voice, but then she wanders most unmusically in time and tune; Bussani has an ample share of vivacity, but it is the vivacity of three-score; Pucitta is a finished singer, and has great taste, but her voice is little more than a whisper; while Calderini possesses one more adapted to a rookery than an opera-house, and what is worse, prides herself upon its strength; for every note she musters the whole force of her lungs, and sends it forth, just as chance would have it, without any scruples about it's being too sharp or too flat. With such wretched supporters, it is not surprising that the vocal department should be rendered subservient to the sports of Terpsichore, which have this year received the aid of several excellent performers new to the country. Vestris and Angiolini, though considerably improved since their arrival, have unluckily directed their ambition to an inferior branch of the art, the rapid execution of steps; and have not attempted, or attempted without success, to equal the elegance of Monsieur and Madame Deshayes, whose performance possesses something sentimental that appeals to the mind as well as to the eye, while that of Vestris is mere bodily exertion, only superior to the feats of the equestrians and rope-dancers at *Astley's* in proportion as it is more difficult. Madame Deshayes, it is reported, does not purpose performing again, but quits the stage in the height of favour, and at a time when there is no prospect of obtaining a substitute qualified to succeed *her*: her admirable performance of mythological characters was evidently the result of a refined mind; and for the more simple characters of pastoral life, her apparent modesty and amiable expression of countenance rendered her peculiarly adapted.

In the general degeneracy of the amusements the scenery

has had it's share; it is now painted by a man of the name of LATILLA, without any talent of design or execution, and so unacquainted with the rules of perspective, that his scenes rival in absurdity HOGARTH's satirical frontispiece. The engagement of such a person is highly discreditable to managerial taste, as it is most probable a country innkeeper would hesitate to let him disfigure his sign-board: indeed it would wrong the daubers of red lions and setting suns to rank him with their honourable fraternity; their works at least, if they discredit themselves, give fame to others, but his are alike degrading to himself and to those who employ him. I wish I could give any share of the compliments of the season to Signor BUONAIUTI, but I am sorry I cannot rank him on an equality even with M. LATILLA, for the one only displeases the eye, the other insults the understanding: it is to the latter that the opera is chiefly indebted for the opprobrium it lies under of sacrificing sense to sound; it is he who degrades the noblest works of the best composers, by associating them with his vile writings; and of him may be said, with more justice than DRYDEN spoke of SHADWELL, that he "never deviates into sense."

H. R.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

ON Wednesday the Gallery was re-opened to the Students. The Governors have sent choice pictures from their collections for the improvement of the young painters. His MAJESTY, the Patron of this highly beneficial Institution, has sent a large piece by TINTORET, whose general effect of colour and clare obscure is splendid. Capt. AGAR's *Landscape and Figures*, by D. TENIERS, is admirable for its force, simplicity of colour, fleecy sky, and naturalness of object. His Landscape by BOTH is one of that tasteful painter's best pieces. With a warm mellow hue and judicious breadth, it is enriched by a profusion of delicate touches in the rocks and light graceful foliage, with magical sunny lights, darting between the broad masses of shade. Earl GROSVENOR's *Landscape*, by CLAUDE, presents that refined painter's favourite objects;—a stem of a tree thickly leaved on one side, with a graceful cluster of trees and a temple on the other; a river, bridge, and distant hills, kine and herdsman, which, like all the rest of his figures, is very badly drawn. It is a very delicate and elegant little landscape. His Lordship has also sent a freely pencilled, deeply toned and magnificently designed *Landscape*, by G. POUSSIN. Mr. HENRY HOPE's *Burgomaster at the Toilet of his Mistress*, is highly brilliant, while it possesses a less artificial light, having a larger proportion of it than is usual in this magical artist. The strong light in the same gentleman's picture of a *Burgomaster and his Mistress*, by REMBRANDT, is confined to the frills, heads and hands, but still it is brilliant without harshness, and strikes like a flash of lightning athwart the deep gloom of night, exhibiting around a soft indistinctness of object. Mr. H. HOPE has also sent a *Magdalen*, by GUIDO. Mr. R. P. KNIGHT's *Magdalen*, by A. CARACCI, possesses that great master's spirited and graceful attitude, appropriate penitence of expression and solemnity of tone. *A Conversation*, by VAN ECKHOUT, sent by Mr. W. SMITH, has a very pleasing breadth of sun-shine in a room. *A Conversation*, by D. TENIERS, sent by Lord KINNAIRD, has the famous artist's square and spirited touch, naturalness of character, and judicious arrangement of light and shadow. Sir ABRAHAM HUME's *Hagar and Ishmael*, by MOLA, has much depth and solemnity of tone. Sir ABRAHAM has also sent a head of *Christ Crucified*, by GUIDO. *St. John Preaching*, by MOLA, has much warmth, depth, mellowness, and solemnity. It is the property of the Rev. H. CARR. Lord KINNAIRD has sent *a Portrait of Rembrandt*, by himself. Mr. MORELAND's *Christ embracing the Cross*, by RUBENS, is forcible. The Marquis of STAFFORD has sent a spirited portrait of *Titian's School-master*, by MORONI. Sir F. BARING's *Landscape and Cattle*, by CUYP, glows with a golden sun-shine, and the cattle are painted with unsurpassed truth and vigour. Lady LUCAS's *Portrait of Mrs. Kirk*, by VANDYKE, exhibits the spirited drawing, delicate touch, and gradations, of that prince of portrait painters. The Rev. H. CARR's *Holy Family*, by BAROCCIO, is deficient in vigour of marking: the outlines blend too much with their ground, but it is almost as tasteful in the attitudes and fleshy roundness as CORREGIO, and in the maternal tenderness of the parents, and innocent playfulness of the children. Though the blues are too prevalent, the colouring is rich and delicate.—The collection at large presents a mass of intellectual nutriment, which, if properly digested, will assist in bringing forward the youthful genius to a matured vigour.

R. H.

REFORM IN PARLIAMENT.

MIDDLESEX MEETING.

On Wednesday a numerous body of the Freeholders of Middlesex met at the Mermaid, Hackney, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning Parliament for a Reform in the Representation of the People.

Sheriff SMITH and HUNTER took the chair, and the requisition for calling the Meeting being read,

Major CARTWRIGHT rose. He apologised for the long postponement of the Meeting after the requisition had been signed, observing, that it was thought necessary to consult that body of men in Parliament who had taken their stand on the rock of the Constitution, with the design of freeing the people from the usurpation and tyranny of the Borough faction, who have trampled under foot the rights of the Crown, as well as the liberties of the people—(*Applause.*)—And here he wished to introduce to them a Noble Earl, who had lately become a defender of the faction (Lord Selkirk) who had told us in a late pamphlet, that Parliamentary Reform is a delusion, a mere bubble, calculated for the amusement and the deception of the public; and he charges those with bad designs who struggle to obtain it.—He does not scruple to call reform "a portentous experiment for throwing down the land marks of our Constitution." Now he (Mr. Cartwright) had looked with care for these land-marks that were thus to be thrown down, and he found them rotten Boroughs—(*A laugh*). They were the land-marks of the Constitution, in the same manner as the ruins of Athens and of Rome, once cities so proud, so free, and so glorious, were proofs that they had long since sunk under the iron yoke of oppression. We have no want of such land-marks; they were in too great abundance among us, both in our civil and military system. We had once a militia, consisting of every man capable of bearing arms, so that no standing army was necessary. Every man was a citizen and a soldier; but now we have an army quite distinct from the people—we have barracks beyond numbers, and a host of foreign German mercenaries—(*Hear! Hear!*) Nay, so far has this infatuation gone, that even one of our districts is commanded by a German. God grant him patience! while he spoke of such things. If we looked at the Civil part of the Constitution, we shall find no fewer than 307 Members of the House of Commons, for England and Wales alone, returned by these rotten boroughs; and,

including Scotland and Ireland, about 352 of these land-marks of our freedom were removed by the same means, and their place occupied by the land-marks of despotism.—Besides, there were about 58 open boroughs, where the voters visibly sold themselves to the highest bidder, *which brought the whole to about 410 Members, a pretty good majority of the number of six hundred and fifty-eight!* add to which, that about one hundred and twelve of these Members were, after they came into the House, placemen and pensioners; and about 78 would be found besides, whose names were in the Red Book as Naval and Military Officers, and who were thus dependent on the Ministers of the day for their fame, their emoluments, and their honour. It was thus that the land-marks of the people's liberty were taken away. He had read in a very ancient and venerable book, "Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's land-mark, and all the people shall say, Amen!"—If such a curse was denounced on those who removed the land-marks of a field, what was due to those who took away the ancient land-marks which maintained the civil liberties of millions! The best writers have compared the House of Commons to a Jury, and he thought, that if the Ministers of the Crown were to enter that House, they should all sit together on a separate Bench, and should act as witnesses to give information to the people's Representatives of the measures of Government; that they should have all the rights of Members, except that of voting.—In our Courts of Law we found witnesses very necessary; but what would you think, if a Jury were to invite the witnesses or the culprit into the Jury box, to join them in giving a verdict—(*Hear! Hear!*)—It seemed quite as absurd for Ministers to vote in their own cause. He would also contend, that by the same process, which destroyed the rights and liberties of the people, the Crown lost its independence, and became the vassal of a set of Borough-mongers. They impose such Ministers on the King as they think proper, and they turn them out. He was King, but they were Viceroys over him. It was the business of the people, then, from a due regard to the dignity of the Crown, to call upon his Majesty to emancipate himself from this thraldom. Finding his Majesty a fellow sufferer with ourselves, we should apply to him by petition, and seek his aid and alliance, to root out the frauds of the Boroughmongers. It was only requisite that the people should exert themselves in the cause, and their conquest over corruption would be easy. Having truth for their spear, and the constitution for their shield, they would be invulnerable, and would finally trample over those reptiles, who have so long trampled on the people and their liberties.—(*Hear! hear!*)—He believed that Bonaparte would be forward to make peace with this Country; but it was his opinion, that if we ever accept of it without reform, both civil and military, peace with France would be our final ruin. He would exhort the Freeholders to unanimity and zeal. We had heard a good deal of temperate reform; but he would say, to be temperate where principle was concerned, was dishonest.—(*Applause and disapprobation*).—He would say, that the first principles of politics were as clear and self-evident as the axioms or the propositions of Euclid, and no man could maintain them too strenuously.—Major Cartwright concluded with proposing a string of Resolutions, of which the following is the substance:—

"1st. That in a Petition presented to the House of Commons in 1790 it was offered to be proved at the Bar, that about 154 individuals, Peers as well as others, are able to place in the House of Commons a majority of Members.

"2d. That a large proportion of the House of Commons are adventurers, dependant on the Crown.

"3d. That it was offered to be proved, in the same Petition in 1790, that seats in that House were as saleable as cattle in Smithfield, which was then asserted by a Member to be a scandalous and false imputation; but which was proved in the last Session by the case of Lord Castlereagh, whose conduct had been most unblushingly justified, or at least passed over.

"4th. That when seats in the House of Commons are bought and sold, then the laws and liberties of the people are bought and sold.

"5th. That the people are thus deprived of their share in the representation, which has been usurped by a corrupt Oligarchy.

"6th. That such Reform would diminish riots at Elections, &c. and would introduce frugality into the public expenditure.

"7th. That King and People are equally interested in this Reform, because the faction has interests separate from each, and inimical to both.

"The 8th thanked Sir F. Burdett, for bringing forward a motion on Reform in the last Session, inviting him to renew the same; and calling upon other Counties and large Towns to follow the example of this Meeting."

Mr. HARE TOWNSEND seconded the Resolutions, and enforced the necessity of Parliamentary Reform, from a view of the burthens of taxation, arising from the present system. In illustration of this, he observed, that he had a farm at Godalmin, which he could lett for 160l. a year, and the burthens upon it in the shape of tythes, income tax, poor's rate, &c. &c. amounted absolutely to more than the rent.—(*Hear! hear!*)

[Here he read an extract from a letter which he had addressed to the people of Godalmin, on a recent rise of the great tythes in that paiish. This Letter is inserted at the end of this article.]

Mr. MADDEN had no objection to the matter of the Resolutions, but, before they passed, wished to offer some observations with respect to the form. He was astonished that so much moderation should be expressed on the subject by a man who had suffered so much from the corruptions of the times; and instead of calling it, with him, the Commons House of Parliament, he would call it the Lower House of Parliament, as they appeared no longer the Representatives of the Commons of England. His Hon. Friend (Major Cartwright) had spoken of the Representation of the Country, but he was disposed not to call it by that name, but to consider it as the Misrepresentation of the Country, as the Commons of England at large had no voice in sending Members to Parliament. The Mover of these Resolutions had recited the great names by whom Parliamentary Reform had been patronised; but the present was not a time when they were to rally round those names who had hitherto proved themselves so unworthy of public confidence. The names of Mr. Pitt, Mr. Fox, and Lord Grey, offered little encouragement to their exertions. These illustrious characters had all been in power, and yet nothing had been done to improve the representation. If they were to judge from past experience, all petitions to the House were fruitless and vain. The great names composing that House rendered all attempts of this kind hopeless. Even the men who opposed Mr. Pitt's administration, appeared little disposed to listen to the claims of the people. The great body of the House was corrupt, and from them no redress was to be expected. The present, above all others, was a most inauspicious time to address that House, when the Whigs, as well as the supporters of Mr. Pitt's long administration, were adverse to every thing like radical and satisfactory reform. Instead of petitioning such a House of Commons, he would advise to have recourse at once to the Throne, and petition the King—(*Bravo! bravo!*) He would petition the King not to issue his writs to those unpeopled and rotten burghs that were so many stains on the Constitution, but to send them to the many populous, industrious, and manufacturing towns that had no representatives in Parliament, though they contributed largely to the support of the Government.—(*Loud Applause*).—He conceived it to be quite useless to petition Parliament, so much of the existing corruption being derived from that quarter. The code even of the Whig party had of late assumed "a tangible shape," and afforded little hope to the best friends of the country. If they wished to read that code, they would find it in a periodical publication issued from the North (the *Edinburgh Review*) of such a complexion, as if it came directly from Lord Melville and his adherents. Let them observe the late conduct of the Whigs in Parliament. What had they done to vindicate the rights of the People? If the late measure of Mr. Curwen was to be regarded as theirs, it was a most weak and pitiful measure, that could contribute nothing to the common cause. What were oaths unless the penalty of perjury was to be attached to a

breach of faith? They would prove no better than the protestations of a prostitute, the promises of a courtier, or the professions of a minister (*loud applause*). But what could they expect from the Whigs, whose political code appeared in the periodical publication he had already alluded to, and the great effort of which had been to put down that patriot Sir F. Burdett, and a political writer (Cobbett) who had done more in the cause of freedom and enlightened reform than any other man, perhaps, that ever existed? These were not the men they were to rely on in the hour of danger. Instead of encouraging, they might expect them to oppose reform. These were, no doubt, the men who had condemned the measures of Mr. Pitt; but these were, at the same time, the men who had suspended the liberty of the press during the trial of Lord Melville, as if the people of England had been incapable of reserving their judgment till the whole case was before them; as if the people of England had not been as anxious to do justice as their representatives. Mr. Fox, however, and Lords Grenville and Grey, had supported this measure, so hostile to the liberty of the press and the rights of the country. By overthrowing this Noble Lord, the Whigs secured their places without improving the situation of the people, and lost it by a measure pretendedly in behalf of liberty; but which, had it been carried into effect, could not have satisfied Ireland; he meant the emancipation of the Irish Roman Catholics. The Whigs were not the men they were to rely on; they had already sufficiently discovered their principles, which appeared to be more calculated to promote their own interests, than the general good of the country. They could not rely on Parliament, who were too corrupt to forward their views. You must go to the King, and say to him, here are towns that send Members to Parliament, so insignificant that they scarcely serve to hide the corruption and shame of the Mayors and pretended Magistrates that have the nominal jurisdiction; Burghs without people, that rob thousands of their elective franchise, while many large and populous towns that contribute largely to the prosperity of the country, and to the revenues of the Crown, have no voice in the legislature of their country, or in the application of the taxes to which they contribute. It was these rotten boroughs that were the source of all our evils, from which all our Nabobs, Contractors, and Placemen had received returns, who, like mites in a cheese, owe their existence to corruption, and then came up to represent us and maintain our privileges in Parliament. Those that supported this rotten borough system, grounded their defence on the argument that property and wealth ought to be represented; but he contended that the King and the House of Peers were already sufficiently adequate to that purpose. Not content with this, however, they grasped at still more. They wished to have the Peers carried into the Commons. That Peers should recommend was perfectly natural, but that they should send up by their own act the paupers of their families to represent the independent Commons in Parliament, he would not bear with patience, while many of them were obliged, in consequence of the public corruption, to send their sons to burning climates, and their relatives to the workhouses. Mr. Pitt, in his time, had sent more men to workhouses, and had put more soldiers into barracks, than had ever been known at any former period in the history of this country. Upon a review of such circumstances, there could be no such thing as temperance in the vindication of our injured rights. Negligence or indifference was a crime, and in all crimes even the least degree was blameable. There were some characters certainly that he revered in Parliament. He had a sincere devotion to Sir Francis Burdett, who, he was certain, loved the Constitution, because he knew it. (*Applause*). He would oppose, however, all petition to Parliament, because he was convinced that it would serve no purpose, and, on the contrary, advised that an Address should be immediately presented to the Crown. Bonaparte had succeeded only against corrupt and profligate Governments. Were the necessary reforms to take place in this country, there was nothing to be feared from that Despot of the Continent. With respect to Parliament, all further measures were unnecessary, unless the people were unanimously to join in demanding redress. They only wished to have restored those rights they had enjoyed before France even pretended to understand the principles of liberty.

Mr. BENTLEY concurred in opinion with the Mover of the Resolutions, on the ground that if the King were petitioned, there would be an end to all discussion on Reform, for the Petition would be handed over to some Waiting Lord, and never more see the light. The hireling writers of the day do not contend that Reform is not necessary, but they endeavour to find among its advocates an individual whose character is not *quite* so unsullied as their own, and then cry out, "Oh Lord! talk of Reform! why you have a scabbed sheep amongst you; how can you have the effrontery to talk of Reform?"—but not one word of argument is heard against the principle. Now this is just as reasonable as if a man, whose house was in flames, should refuse the aid of those who worked the engines, merely because their morals were incorrect!—would not any one suppose that such a man delighted in the conflagration, or had an intention of plundering his neighbour's house during the catastrophe?—For the necessity of Reform, he should proceed to give a few reasons, founded upon stubborn facts:—Some years ago, a Board for the Encouragement of Agriculture was established; letters patent were issued, and Parliament directed that 3000l. annually should be placed at the disposal of the Board. Who could have thought that in the passage of these letters patent through the various offices, the charges would possibly have amounted to the enormous sum of 1189l. 1s. 2d.? Another instance was in the case of the celebrated Dr. Jenner, for whose beneficial discovery Parliament voted 10,000l. *clear of all charges*; and it was fortunate that it was so expressed in the grant, for the official charge for simply paying over this money to the Doctor, amounted to the scandalous sum of 756l. For performing a service not a bit more troublesome than paying a butcher's or a baker's bill, the Clerks in office must receive *seven hundred and thirty-five pounds!* A third instance arose from the repairs of a ship of war, which were all completed in three days, and the vessel at sea again. The Commander imagined that 70l. or 80l. would have been the whole amount; but judge of his surprize, when he discovered that upwards of *one thousand pounds* had been the official charge! —During Mr. Pitt's administration these things were carried to an almost incredible height. In the Post Office, two Noblemen, high in office, met to pass the accounts: at a charge of between *one and two thousand pounds* for furnishing *a certain house for a lady on Blackheath*, one of the Noblemen demurred, though he was assured "it was quite the custom, and if he did not like to pass it in *that shape*, it might be put to the coal and candle account!" The Nobleman however was inflexible, and he was shortly after informed that his services were no longer necessary. At the commencement of the fatal American war, the public debt was 170 millions! it now amounts to upwards of 676 millions! and of this sum, 118 millions have been increased since the year 1803. The expences of the present year alone, exceed 90 millions of money! and if every acre of land in the kingdom could be sold for its value, it would not be sufficient to pay off the national debt.—Ministers seem to think that they can dragoon the whole world, but they are woefully mistaken: there is not a Court in Europe where an English ambassador can shew his face. In short, things have arrived at that state, that nothing but a Reform can save the Country, and nothing but perseverance on the part of the people can effect that Reform.

Mr. WAITHMAN had no intention of speaking when he came to the Meeting, nor had he any previous knowledge of the Resolutions to be proposed, but approving of them as he did, he could not resist the pleasure of thus publicly expressing his unqualified approbation. With the Gentleman who had suggested the propriety of addressing the Crown, he in some measure agreed as to the little hope of success to be entertained from petitioning Parliament, but at the same time reminded him, that this was the only constitutional mode; and that whatever the result might be, it became them to discharge their duty. He reminded that Gentleman, at the same time, that any application to the Crown, with respect to Burgh Reform,

would be useless, as the King, by the Act of Settlement, could not disfranchise any burgh, or erect any new one. This could only be an act of the Legislature. The King, however, might be addressed with great propriety, with a view to inform his Majesty of the actual state of the representation, and, as Major Cartwright had stated, of the danger arising to the Crown from that career, as well as to the liberties of the people. It was not probable that his Majesty could hear such information, unless from such a quarter. It was his wish that every country should reform itself; had the Spaniards had the virtue or the courage to do so, not a French soldier would have dared to cross the Pyrenees. Domestic corruption was the most powerful ally of a foreign foe. He concluded by recommending a petition to Parliament.

The Resolutions were then put; the first seven were all agreed to, with only one dissentient voice. On the eighth being put,

Mr. CLIFFORD observed, that he had heard the opinions of a number of Gentlemen upon the subject of diffusing a spirit for Parliamentary Reform over the British dominions. He thought the best mode of accomplishing the object of the Meeting would be to recommend to the People resident in other counties to follow the laudable example of the Electors of Middlesex, and that the inhabitants of rotten Boroughs, who had no votes, should assemble and lay their case before the House of Commons, stating the means by which their representatives are returned through the influence of seven or eight men, where there are as many thousand inhabitants. He likewise thought that the people of Mary-le-bone, the Tower Hamlets, and a great many other places, should state that they were not at all represented, and demand relief; for though he had no faith in the wisdom or integrity of the House of Commons, he would still petition that House, as he had great hopes from the *fears* of its majorities. It should never be forgotten that it was not the integrity of the House which produced the vote against my Lord Melville; it was not integrity which made Ministers turn out the Duke of York;—he said *turned out*, for it had been very improperly called resignation:—No; it was *fear* that did all these things; and it is generally found, that tyrants are as cowardly as they are corrupt; you may hope something from their fear, but nothing from their integrity.

The Resolution was again put and carried, with one dissentient voice.

Mr. TOWNSEND again addressed the Meeting, and entreated the Electors to persevere, and present petition upon petition, until they had gained their point.

The Petition to the House of Commons, founded upon the Resolutions, was then read and agreed to.

Mr. TOWNSEND moved, that it should be signed by the Sheriff and Freeholders, and delivered to Mr. Byng, one of their Representatives, for him to present it the House of Commons; which was also agreed to.

Mr. TOWNSEND then moved, "That Mr. Byng and Mr. Mellish, their two Representatives, should be instructed to support the Petition in Parliament;" which was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. BYNG then thanked the Meeting for deputing him to present the Petition, and promised to give it his utmost support. It was a great satisfaction to him to see that a measure which he had always supported had then met the approbation of so large and so respectable a portion of his Constituents.—He was satisfied that the present House of Commons was not a faithful representation of the people, and until it should be altered, the people could not enjoy those privileges to which they were entitled. He always wished to see the people return their own Representatives, without the influence or authority of Ministers, or the Aristocracy, and he was indifferent whether the Parliaments were yearly or triennial. The latter had been continued only ninety years; and he thought they ought to be restored, and then corruption and abuses should be swept away.

Mr MELLISH then addressed the Meeting, and requested the Electors to hear him out, as, if they did not, his words might be misinterpreted. Whatever pleasure he might take in following the instructions of his Constituents when they were in unison with his own opinions, yet when they happened unfortunately to be diametrically opposite, he did not think they had a right to press it upon him—(*Marks of disapprobation.*) He said that Mr. Townsend had mentioned a kind of reform which he was afraid the Meeting was not aware of; he could only say, that if any reform should be proposed in the House of Commons, he should attend in his place, and if he thought it necessary or proper to support it—(*continued cries of off! off!*)—and Mr. Mellish sat down.

Mr. TOWNSHEND said, that some of his friends told him, that Mr. Mellish had alluded to what he had said upon the subject of tythes. All he meant was, that Parliament should make some salutary regulation upon the subject; and if Mr. Mellish would not allow that, he was unfit to be a Member at all. It would not be trenching upon the rights of any man, but doing justice to all. As Mr. Mellish would not obey the instructions of his Constituents, he hoped he would retire from their service; but if he would not do that, he trusted the Electors would never disgrace themselves by re-electing him.—(*Cries of Never, Never!*)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT then read a long Address to the King, stating the grievances which the people suffered from an undue representation, which concluded with a prayer for redress.

Mr. TOWNSHEND and Mr. WAITHMAN said, that they agreed with the substance of the Address; but as it was so very long they would not then support it, because the Meeting had not time to examine it minutely, paragraph by paragraph, before they should sign it. They thought it necessary to examine it carefully, because any inadvertent expression would be laid hold of, and explained to their disadvantage afterwards.

The Petition was then withdrawn.

The Thanks of the Meeting were then voted to Mr. Byng, the Sheriffs, and to Major Cartwright.

TAXATION.

A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE INHABITANTS OF GODALMIN, ON THE RECENT RISE OF THE GREAT TITHES.

GENTLEMEN, *Busbridge, July* 28, 1809.

As an increased demand for Tithes will oblige me to cease from being a grower of corn, a circumstance which concerns the public as nearly as it does myself, I beg to present the inhabitants of Godalmin parish with a statement of facts, which perhaps may stimulate them to come forward with the friends of British freedom to procure that reform which can alone save the country from ruin.

When a bow has been strained to the utmost, it will break at last. But as if the calls of Government were not sufficient to snap the string, and as if the snapping of it were an honour to be coveted, the Proprietor of Tithes has come forward on the present occasion to give the finishing pull, before another budget should have prevented the farmer from supplying the people with corn, except at a price which none but the most affluent could afford to pay.

Gentlemen, the farmer, the mere farmer, has been forced to comply with the various demands made upon him, and with the rise of Tithes that has lately taken place, for the chance that some scanty pittance might still remain to him, by which he might keep his family from starving. But where a man is not wholly dependent on the next year's crop for his support, he has another duty to perform; he is bound to act in such a way, as to shew the people the true state of the country; and not, by submitting to be the mere agent of others who are fattening on the public spoil, appear to be a partaker of the plunder, and be held out to public detestation, and pointed at by the finger of Scorn, as selling his corn at an enormous price; when, in fact, the money he receives at market with one hand, is imme-

diately parted with by the other in payment of Land-tax, Property-tax, Poor-rate, Highway-rate, Church-rate, and Great and Small Tithes. In corroboration of which, I shall now proceed to state my facts, by giving you an account of what I pay annually under those heads, upon a farm for which, were I to let it, I could not obtain more than 160l. per annum rent:—

	£.	s.	d.
Land-tax - - -	16	8	5
Property-tax - -	31	6	4
Poor-rate - - -	47	5	6
Highway-rate - -	10	17	3
Churchgrate - - -	1	3	6
Great Tithes - - -	39	2	6
Small Tithes - - -	11	5	0
Total - - - - -	157	18	0

This, Gentlemen, is what I pay at *present*. But when the proprietor of Great Tithes was for raising them to 50l. *a-year!* which would have brought my out-goings for Tithes, Taxes, and Rates, to eight pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence per year beyond any rent I could obtain, I felt that the last pull broke the bow, but that it nerved the man to resist further oppression!

Gentlemen, when you consider, in addition to what I have here stated, the increased price of labourers' wages, and the increased price of every thing that is used upon a farm, such as iron, timber, leather, cart-horses, &c. all of which are in constant wear and tear, (the three first in the shape of harness, carts, waggons, harrows, and ploughs, for which again there is necessarily an increased demand in the making; and that the last are frequently swept off by the disorders incident to colts, or the influence of contagious distempers) you cannot wonder at the high price of corn; and you must be convinced that the present system of taxing and tithing, if persevered in, will in a short time prevent the farmer from selling the produce of his land, except at a price, as I have observed before, which none but the affluent can afford to pay.

Now, Gentlemen, there is an easy remedy for the grievances which all feel, but of which few dare openly to complain, and that is—a fair and equal Representation of the People in Parliament.

Were the Guardians of the people's property their real Representatives, instead of being returned to *serve* in parliament in the way they are, it is not unreasonable to suppose that some check might be put on the Proprietor of Tithes, when his exorbitant demands have driven the farmer to submit to his Tithes being taken in kind; and that the farmer should at least have a right to retain a fair proportion of the tenth part of his crops set apart for the Tithes, for the money he had expended in buying dressing and artificial manure: and it should not be forgotten, that when the Clergy were first allowed a tenth part of the gross produce of the land, the Tithes were divided into four equal parts, and applied to four different purposes: the first went to the bishop, the second to the maintenance of the repairs of the Church, the third to the support of the *poor*; and the fourth was all that was pocketed by the rector. But, Gentlemen, the rector now pockets *all!* and so far from contributing to the support of the poor, absolutely demands that the farmer should pay the Poor-rate on the Tithes he has compounded for!

Now, Gentlemen, I shall conclude by observing, and it is an observation that should be particularly attended to at the present juncture, that those who have not the spirit to resist oppression and extortion at home, will fall an easy conquest to a foreign foe, should he ever effect a landing on our coasts. Rouse therefore, Britons! from your torpor, come forward to procure a Constitutional Parliamentary Reform, and you may then look forward to Peace, Liberty, and Plenty, in the room of War, Famine, and Foreign Dependence!—I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant and well-wisher to my Country,

HENRY HARE TOWNSEND.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Sunday morning about two o'clock, a hackney-coach, with three persons in it, *going along Parliament-street*, was stopped by four fellows, one of whom stood at the horses' heads, while the others robbed the passengers to the amount of 16l. and made their escape.

On Thursday forenoon, a young Gentleman who was walking with his sister in St. James's park, stopt to speak to a friend, while the young Lady, who walked on slowly, was accosted by a fellow, dressed like a Gentlemen, and who used the most brutal and indecent language. The brother having come up, and finding his sister much embarrassed and in tears, instantly seized the ruffian, but the Lady was ashamed to mention the cause of her distress, when a girl with a child came up, and stated, that the fellow was constantly in the habit of insulting every female he met. The brother immediately inflicted summary chastisement on the ruffian with his cane, who was otherwise very properly punished by several people, who assembled, having been made acquainted with the crime for which he was chastised.

A person who kept a public-house in Oxford-street, put a period to his existence on Wednesday morning, by hanging himself in his bed-room. The deceased had been for some time in a state of despondency, and a few days since attempted to drown himself in the basin in Hyde Park; but he was discovered in the act and saved. His wife rose earlier than usual on Wednesday morning, and left the deceased, as she supposed, asleep; but on going into the bed-room a short time afterwards, she found him suspended from the bed-post. The deceased has left four children. A Coroner's Inquest sat on the body. Verdict—*Lunacy.*

An Inquisition was taken on Friday at the Bowling-green public-house, Somerstown, on the body of Smith, who was killed in a battle with one Jones, on Wednesday. It appeared in evidence that the parties were workmen at a brick-kiln.—They had fought twice before, and the deceased was in both battles much beaten. He gave the challenge in this instance, and gave Jones no alternative but to fight. After a contest of half an hour, the deceased fell from a blow on the side, and was carried away. It appeared, however, that he died by a fall. Verdict—*Manslaughter.*

BIRTHS.

Yesterday se'nnight, the lady of John Wigg , Esq. of Tyndales, near Danbury, Essex, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At Tarring, in Sussex, Martin Tupper, Esq. of New Burlington-street, to Miss Ellen Devis, of Devonshire-place.

DEATHS.

On Tuesday evening, in Hill-street, Berkeley-square, Lady Hume, sister to the Earl of Bridgewater, and wife of Sir A. Hume.

On Saturday se'nnight, at Richmond, Lady Clarges.

On Monday, in the 80th year of his age, Edward Wright, alias My Hearty, a notorious character. He had been upwards of 70 years a thief, and had been 75 times arraigned at the Old Bailey and Quarter Sessions, and as often punished.

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